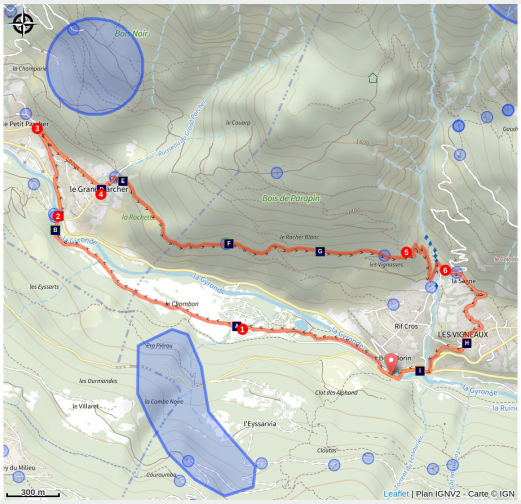
Le Grand Parcher circuit (no. 6)

Parc national des Ecrins

sentier en forêt d'adret (rogiervanrijn)



Circling the village of Les Vigneaux and its hamlets, this loop through welcoming and tranquil surroundings offers a magnificent panoramic view over the valley.

This circuit in the municipality of Les Vigneaux follows the Gyronde, on the north-facing side, bringing you to Le Grand Parcher with its traditional houses and the village of Les Vigneaux, on the south-facing side, standing on an alluvial cone.

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike

Duration : 2 h

Length : 7.8 km

Trek ascent : 221 m

Difficulty : Medium

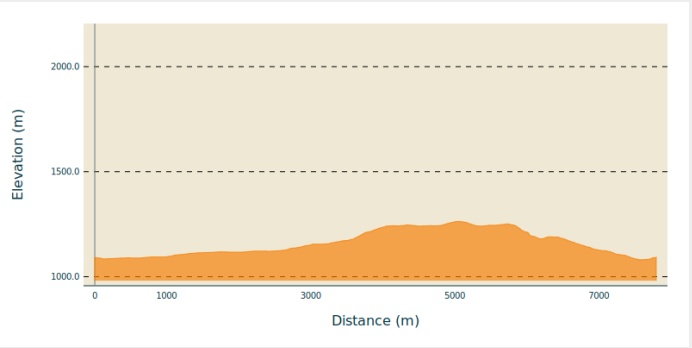
Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Geology

Trek

Departure : Pont du Rif (right-hand bank of the Gyronde), Les Vigneaux
Arrival : Pont du Rif (right-hand bank of the Gyronde), Les Vigneaux
Markings : VTT
Cities : 1. Les Vigneaux
2. Vallouise-Pelvoux

Altimetric profile

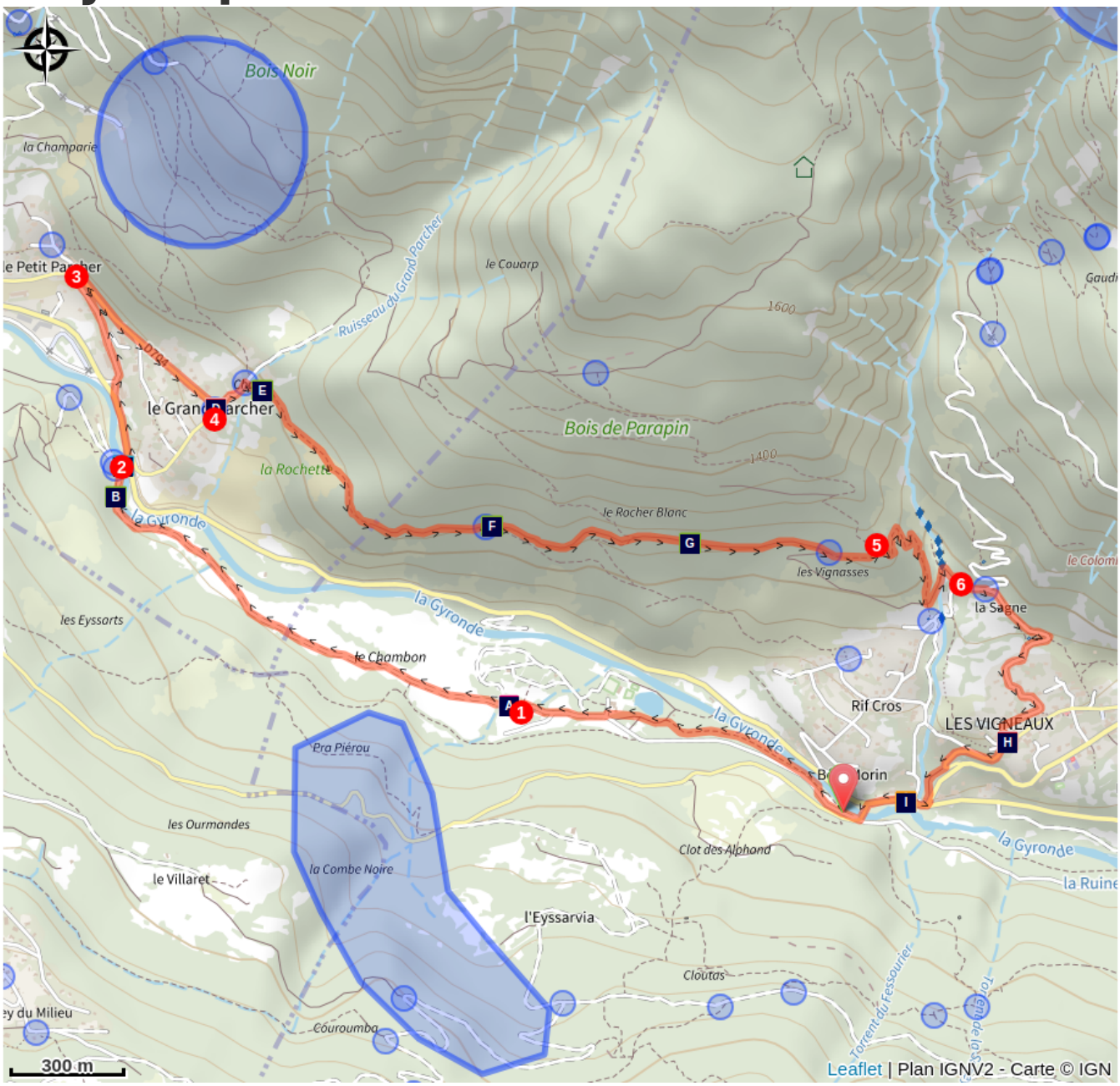


Min elevation 1081 m Max elevation 1263 m

The circuit starts near the car park on the right-hand bank of the Gyronde, on a narrow track that follows the river upstream, below the road leading to a campsite, the Camping des Vaudois

1. After going through the campsite, take the track on the left leading towards Le Chambon. This virtually straight path passes through a number of meadows
2. Cross a bridge (the Pont Haut) and join the local road. After 200 metres, at the next intersection turn right towards Le Petit Parcher
3. At the crossroads, turn right towards Le Grand Parcher
4. In Le Grand Parcher, take the road rising uphill to the left. A few metres beyond the Chapelle Saint-André, take a narrow path on the right leading towards the Rocher Blanc
5. As you ascend, head right on a single track until you come to the Rif Cros mountain stream
6. Cross the mountain stream and carry on to the centre of Les Vigneaux. When you come to the local road and the Pont du Rif you have reached your starting point

On your path...



- The "ubac" (A)
- The laserwort (B)
- Thne Gyronde (C)
- The hamlet of Parcher (D)
- The northern wryneck (E)
- On the south-facing slope, pine forest (F)
- Etruscan honeysuckle (G)
- The communal oven (H)
- The village of Les Vigneaux (I)

All useful information

Herd protection dogs - ATV

In mountain pastures, protection dogs are there to protect the herds from predators (wolves, etc.).

When mountain biking, I adapt my behavior by going around the herd, pausing and getting off the bike so the dog can identify me.

Find out more about the actions to adopt with the article "Protection dogs: a context and actions to adopt".
Tell us about your meeting by answering this survey.

Advices

Rescue services contact details: Secours Montagne(Mountain Rescue): +33 (0)4 92 22 22 22 or 112

Take your litter home

Do not take shortcuts across pastureland

How to come ?

Transports

Public transport >> www.pacamobilite.fr
Consider car-sharing >> www.blablacar.fr

For more information, ask at the Tourist Information Office nearest to the trail starting point >> www.paysdesecrins.com

Access

4.7 km from L'Argentière-La Bessée, take the D994E.

Advised parking

Car park close to the Pont du Rif (right-hand bank of the Gyronde), Les Vigneaux

Environmental sensitive areas

Along your trek, you will go through sensitive areas related to the presence of a specific species or environment. In these areas, an appropriate behaviour allows to contribute to their preservation. For detailed information, specific forms are accessible for each area.

Short-toed snake eagle

Sensitivity period: March, April, May, June, July, August, September

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
Julien Charron
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Nidification du Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques aériennes comme le vol libre ou le vol motorisé.

Merci d’essayer d’éviter la zone ou de rester à un distance minimale de 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1790m d'altitude !

Short-toed snake eagle

Sensitivity period: March, April, May, June, July, August, September

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
Julien Charron
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Nidification du Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc.

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques aériennes comme le vol libre ou le vol motorisé.

Merci d’essayer d’éviter la zone ou de rester à un distance minimale 300m sol quand vous survolez la zone ! Soit 1650m d'altitude pour cette zone.

Information desks

Vallouise Park house

vallouise@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 92 23 58 08
http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/

Bureau d'Information Touristique de L'Argentière-La Bessée

23 Avenue de la République, 05120 L'Argentière-La Bessée

contact@paysdesecrins.com
Tel : +33(0)4 92 23 03 11
https://www.paysdesecrins.com/

Bureau d'Information Touristique de Vallouise

Place de l'Eglise, 05340 Vallouise

contact@paysdesecrins.com
Tel : +33(0)4 92 23 36 12
https://www.paysdesecrins.com/

Source

Pays des Ecrins

https://www.paysdesecrins.com

On your path...

The "ubac" (A)

The track rises gently up the right-hand bank of the Gyronde, on the "ubac" side. The "ubac" is the slope that is exposed to the north, so it is in shadow in winter when the sun is low in the sky.

Attribution : Office de tourisme du Pays des Écrins

The laserwort (B)

After the bridge, a large plant with flowers arranged in umbels (in other words, an umbellifer) clings to a small rock bar to the right of the track, the laserwort. This plant belongs to the family Apiaceae, which used to be called umbellifers, and grows in dry areas. It has a distinctive feature: in autumn, the basal part of the stem breaks of its own accord and the entire plant, now dry, sets off rolling down the hillside like a large ball, or is blown by the wind.

Attribution : Cédric Dentan - Parc national des Écrins

Thne Gyronde (C)

No, we're not in south-west France where the Gironde flows! The Gyronde (spelt with a «y»!) is the river that flows between Vallouise and L'Argentière-La Bessée, where it flows into the Durance. It originates from the Gyr and Onde mountain streams which merge in Vallouise.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

The hamlet of Parcher (D)

The hamlet of Grand Parcher stands on the alluvial cone formed by the Grand Parcher mountain stream, and on either side of it. It is made up of several old houses and the seventeenth-century chapel of Saint-André. It has two sun dials painted onto its walls. One of them bears the saying HORA INCERTA CUNTIS, ULTIMA MULTIS (This hour is uncertain for all, it is the last hour for many). Food for thought!

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

The northern wryneck (E)

In the spring, an odd song can be heard among the old trees in the orchard, a loud song similar to that of the green woodpecker, only slower. It is that of the northern wryneck. This bird owes its name to the extreme way it extends and twists its neck when it feels threatened. Its French name torcol fourmilier is a reference to the fact that it feeds on ants (fourmils in French). Difficult to spot because its plumage merges into the colour of the tree trunks, it gives its presence away by its song when it returns from its migration.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins

On the south-facing slope, pine forest (F)

The track passes through a forest of Scots pines, mixed with some downy oak trees. It is a forest typical of those found in the lower south-facing slopes (those exposed to the sun) in the intra-alpine valleys.

Attribution : Parc national des Écrins

Etruscan honeysuckle (G)

Etruria was the territory of the Etruscans, in the area of present-day Tuscany. Although this honeysuckle does not grow only in Tuscany, it is Mediterranean, however, and only grows naturally in the wild in the southern half of France. Being a plant that needs warmth, it does not grow at altitude, except here where the south-facing slopes are particularly dry and warm. Its large pink and yellow flowers are highly perfumed.

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins

The communal oven (H)

Legend has it that the Lord caused a communal oven to be built and kept it maintained. The local people could use this oven in exchange for the payment of a levy. Families would prepare and knead their own dough at home and then bring it to the oven for baking. Names were drawn by lot to establish their turns.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

The village of Les Vigneaux (I)

In spite of the altitude, the region's dry climate and the local growing conditions of limestone and sediments facing due south made the planting of grapevines possible as far back as the tenth century. The municipality owes its name to the presence of these vineyard operations, which were very significant in the late nineteenth century. The almost simultaneous appearance of the phylloxera aphid and the Briançon train, bringing wine from Provence, spelled the end of this activity here.

Attribution : Blandine Reynaud - PDE